

Tanaka (JP 4-295824). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 8 requires "an electrode pattern for adsorbing an ionic impurity is provided on the interlayer insulating film in the surrounding region; and the electrode pattern is divided into a plurality of segments; and an electric signal is individually input to each of the segments, and wherein *all segments of the electrode pattern for adsorbing an ionic impurity are provided on the same substrate . . . .*"

The interpretation of claim 8 was discussed during the interview. The primary basis for the final rejection is the Office Action's contention that claim 8 does not require that the entire electrode pattern for adsorbing an ionic impurity(ies) be provided on the same substrate. In contrast, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 clearly states that the entire electrode pattern for adsorbing an ionic impurity(ies) is on the same substrate (there is no such electrode pattern or pattern portion on the other substrate).

Mitsui has no electrode pattern for adsorbing ionic impurity(ies), and is unrelated to the invention of claim 8.

Both references cited for the teaching of electrode patterns for adsorbing ion impurities (i.e., Kikuchi and Tanaka) require that different parts of the electrode pattern be provided on *both* of the opposing substrates. In other words, neither Kikuchi nor Tanaka disclose or suggest providing the entire electrode pattern for adsorbing ionic impurity(ies) on only one of the two substrates as required by claim 8. Thus, even the alleged combination fails to meet claim 8.

Claim 15

Claim 15 is different than claim 8. In particular, claim 15 does not require that all parts of the electrode pattern for adsorbing an ionic impurity be provided on the same substrate. However, claim 15 requires that "an electrode pattern for adsorbing an ionic impurity provided over the interlayer insulating film in the surrounding region so as to surround the display pixel area on all sides thereof and so as to be at least partially coplanar with the pixel electrodes."

Accordingly, it can be seen that claim 15 requires that an electrode pattern located over a given insulating film (i.e., supported by the same substrate) surround the display pixel area on all lateral sides thereof as viewed from above. Thus, claim 15 requires that the parts of the electrode pattern which surround the pixel area are provided over the same interlayer insulating film – thereby meaning that they must be supported by the same substrate. No cited references discloses or suggest an electrode pattern supported by a given substrate which surrounds the pixel area as required by claim 15 – either alone or in the alleged combination.

The final rejection of claim 15 contends that the surrounding may be performed by a combination of some electrodes from one substrate and other electrodes from the other substrate. In particular, the final rejection contends that four electrodes 4 in Tanaka combine to surround the pixel area. However, two of these electrodes are on one substrate and two on the other substrate. Claim 15 expressly excludes this. As explained above, claim 15 requires that the electrode(s) that surround the pixel area be over the same interlayer insulating film and thus that they be supported by the same substrate. The alleged combination thus fails to meet the invention of claim 15.

**FUJIOKA et al**

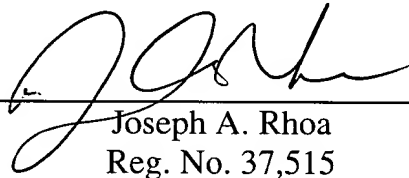
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For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Examiner with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

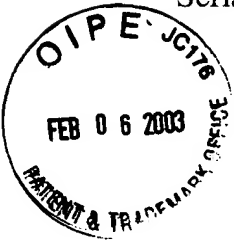
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

15. (*Amended*) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
- a pair of substrates;
  - a liquid crystal layer between the pair of substrates;
  - a plurality of switching elements arranged on one of the pair of substrates;
  - pixel electrodes provided in a display pixel area of the display device;
  - an insulating film on one of the pair of substrates and at least partially covering address lines, the insulating film extending to a surrounding region of the display pixel area; and
  - an electrode pattern for adsorbing an ionic impurity provided over the [interlayer] insulating film in the surrounding region so as to surround the display pixel area on all sides thereof and so as to be at least partially coplanar with the pixel electrodes.

